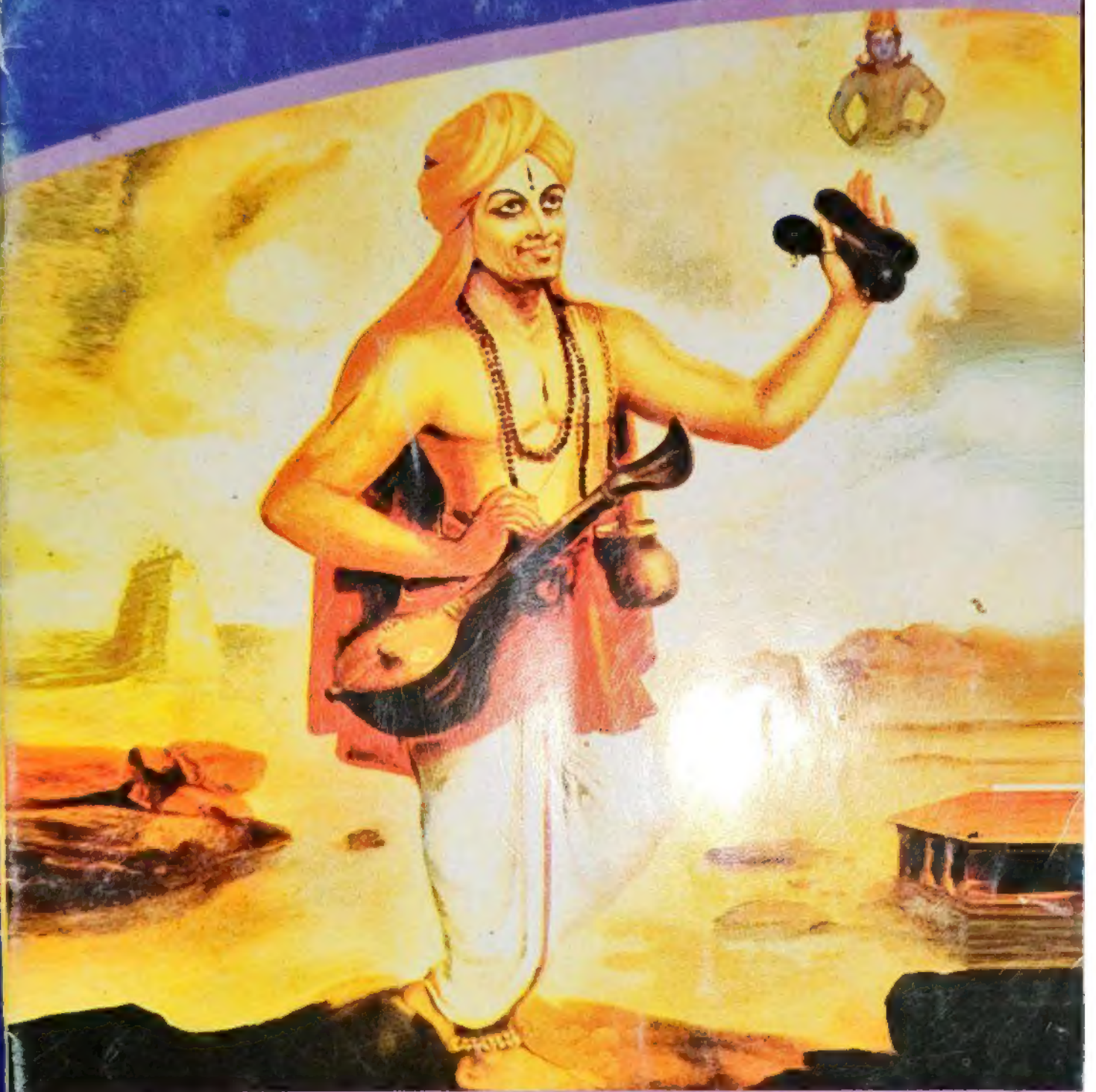


PURANDARA DASU

Dr. Rajeshwara Shastry Shishtla



**TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS
TIRUPATI**

is a hamlet near Tirupati of Shivamogga District. In those days, it was a leading commercial centre. There used to be Brahmin families with the name "nayaka". It was known for the educated, the devotees and the intellectuals then. The devotion of Panduranga was very popular. It was situated between Udipi in the West and Pandaripuram of the North East. Srinivasanayaka used to move round towns like Bijapuram, Sollapuram, Purandarapuram, Hampi on business. Later on it is understood that he lived much of the time in Pandaripuram and Hampi cities.

PURANDARADASU WITH ANNAMACHARYA

The life-time of Purandara is taken to be 1484 -1564. When he was about forty, Srinivasa Rayalu visited Vyasarayalu and got his upadesham and took up the name Purandaradasu. Some of the historians feel that the Birth time of Sinivasarayalu was 1480. It also may not be true. Because by then Purandara Dasu met Annamacharya, a popular vocal singer, a singer and great grandfather of poetry.

The grandson of Annamayya, Chinnanna, wrote Annamacharya's biography. In that he mentioned that in the last ages of Annamacharya, Purandara Dasu visited him leaving all his wealth, wedded to dire poverty. Purandara had been to Vyasarayalu of Vijaya Nagaram and got upadesham. He might have been past 30 by the time he visited Annamacharya at Tirupati. If we rely on the writings of Chinnanna, we have to believe that Purandara lived between 1470 and 1564.



EXPERTISED IN ALL FIELDS OF EDUCATION

In 1470 was born a son to Varadappa Nayaka and Kamalamba. The child was named "Srinivasa Nayaka" Varadappa Nayaka was a Madhwa Brahmin. He was an expert jewel merchant and earned quite a lot in business. Following the traditions, he performed sacerdotal ceremony (Upanayanam) of his son and sent him for education at the right age. For the boy there was everything. He was taught Kannada and Sanskrit and trained in Carnatic music. He was also educated in the Dharma Shastra. He grasped the testing skills of Diamonds and Pearls from his father. At 16 Srinivasa Nayaka understood and got expertised in all these disciplines. All this education of his early days contributed a lot in his future life.

SARASWATHIBAI THE BETTERHALF

Srinivasa Nayudu married Saraswathi Bai in his eighteenth year. She was born in a traditional family. She showed a lot of respect and veneration to dharma. She had love and devotion to her husband. She was not only a strong devotee of God but also a compassionate individual to all beings. The couple led an amicable and lovable ideal married life. Being a life partner to her husband, Saraswathi Bai did all that she could for the happiness and joy of her husband. Varadappa nayudu died when his son was twenty. All the business and wealth he inherited. Srinivasa Nayaka gave birth to four sons Varadappa, Guru Rayudu, Abhinavudu, Madhavapathi and a daughter Rukmini Bai.

A VERY, VERY MISERLY MAN

The chief aim in life to srinivasa Nayaka is earning money. So the education he had in his early ages could not change him. He had even lacked humanism which is quite common in many. Paying more attention on earning, he even ignored all the comforts. With his expertise in testing the diamonds, he earned a lot and became "Navakoti Narayana". He never gave a paisa to anybody. As he grew richer and richer, he became more miserly.

It became an inherent quality. He treated beggars as his enemies. He always repelled all the sayings of dharma and felt that it was only for earning money. He became an athiest. Saraswathi Bai felt very sad at this unwanted development. Her humanity, devotion and compassion stood out quite contrary to her hard hearted, atheistic, money minded husband. She felt quite sad for this. Quite often he would visit Vijayanagar on his business. Fortunately this miserly attitude did not continue long.

ENOUGH IF YOU GIVE YOUR NOSE JEWEL (MUKKUPUDAKA)

Meanwhile a strange incident happened and that brought over a change in Srinivasa Nayaka. One day an old Brahmin came to him with a boy asking for some help to perform his son's sacerdotal ceremony (Upanayanam) Srinivasa Nayaka knows the ways of earning but he is a stranger to the aspect of spending in

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Published by Sri Anil Kumar Singhal, I.A.S., Executive Officer,
Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, Tirupati and
Printed at T.T.D Press, Tirupati. Website: www.tirumala.org